

DRAFT: JQReber/cw
21 August 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : TALENT Communications

REFERENCES : A. TCS-1816-57, Director of Operations to CIA TCO
B. TCS-1841-57, Project Director to TCO

1. The matters discussed in the referenced papers really deal with the following questions:

a. In view of the authority granted to the Project Director to use special communications privileges for AQUATONE operations, is it proper to include TALENT communications?

b. In view of the anticipated but not specified demise of AQUATONE, will TALENT continue to exist as a system serving other sensitive projects, and, therefore, will it not require a separate communications system? If eventually, why not now?

c. Is it necessary to have a communications arrangement which will permit the proper handling of TALENT-COMINT messages?

2. With regard to the first question, in 1. a. above, you have already authorized the CIA TCO and TSO to release TALENT messages which have thus far been almost exclusively between Washington, on the

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one hand, and [REDACTED] on the other. This action of yours was proper inasmuch as the volume of material was expected to be small, the [REDACTED] channel already existed between these points, and, finally and most important, TALENT thus far has been inseparable from AQUATONE.

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3. With regard to the second question, paragraph 1. b. above, as you know, agreements have already been reached with regard to the incorporation of [REDACTED] products into the TALENT system and also those of [REDACTED] if and when it is established. Though this is the only case to date of the inclusion of non-AQUATONE material in the TALENT system, you will recall that it has long been your belief that the TALENT system would be most effective as a security system if it included materials from a number of sensitive projects so that the users of the products would not be able to tell precisely from which they emanate. Accordingly, it would seem to me that we ought to anticipate the continuance of the TALENT system after the end of AQUATONE though when this is to be I am unaware. If this judgment were accepted, then the question would be whether now is the time to make provision for special TALENT communications distinct from [REDACTED]

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4. The establishment of separate TALENT communications channels involves the following actions:

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a. Approval of the Director's office for the establishment of a separate channel in order to insure restricted and controlled dissemination.

b. Clearance of a special TALENT signal center in L Building with the concurrence of the communications security system.

A special signal center in L Building already exists with limited personnel cleared for highly sensitive projects such as AQUATONE. They are also today cleared for TALENT. To institute the use of this center, therefore, only requires authorization and the naming of a slug to be used for guidance for the transmission and dissemination of messages. In view of the very small amount of traffic now flowing through [REDACTED] channels and bearing on TALENT matters, it is not believed necessary to make this transition at this time.

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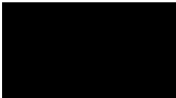

However, at such time as either the TALENT flow becomes considerably larger, by virtue of business bearing on AQUATONE or by virtue of the flow of materials from [REDACTED] consideration should be given to establishing this new TALENT communications arrangement.

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5. With regard to the third question, listed in l. c. above, it is now clear that by virtue of recent decisions bearing on the dissemination of the DMR and the CMR, only the latter having heretofore gone to the

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 there is even less likelihood of TALENT-COMINT traffic, and there only have been previously one or two cases where TALENT-COMINT messages were sent. It is not recommended that any provision be made for the transmission of TALENT-COMINT messages. Where it appears that messages must be transmitted involving the two security systems, it is recommended that the sender be required to separate the substance of his messages so that each part may flow through its own system with any necessary reference to messages transmitted in the other. In the event where this is not possible, we have the assistance of the COMINT Security Officers of OCI to try to achieve a sanitization of the COMINT element in order that the message may be transmitted through the TALENT (at the present time  channel.

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6. The foregoing represents the views of representatives of Project Office of Communications, HTAUTOMAT, OCI, the TSC and TCO CIA. If the foregoing views are in accordance with your own, would you please indicate your concurrence. Thereupon, no new actions are required.

CONCUR:

Project Director

cys to Dir Ops
Deputy Proj Dir

25X1A2g There has been some confusion arising from the existence of
the slugs [REDACTED] By virtue of the
25X1A2g reasoning above, the [REDACTED] will be abolished except in regard to
operational messages bearing upon TALENT-COMINT which must go 25X1A2g
from Headquarters to operational bases. The [REDACTED] slug is useful
25X1A2g in expediting the transmittal of messages from [REDACTED] when active to
HTAUTOMAT and those associated, such as DD/I, TSO, and myself,
as well as Operations, on matters relating to their problems. This
slug is used not only on messages coming into Headquarters but also on
25X1A2g messages which are coordinated in the community from Headquarters to
the USAFE Commander at [REDACTED] When we desire to talk to a CIA
25X1A2g representative at an [REDACTED] on matters which he may discuss with the
other Agency representatives, these are designated "FOR JONES AT
25X1A2g [REDACTED] When we wish to discuss matters with the CIA Deputy not
25X1A2g bearing upon [REDACTED] business, we do so through the cable address. The 25X1A2g
25X1A2g use of the [REDACTED] slug should be continued for communications on
TALENT matters other than those which properly belong under [REDACTED]
25X1A6a between Washington Headquarters CIA and any of our TALENT centers;
these today are at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] does not have 25X1A6a
a TALENT center but has TALENT-cleared cryptographers so that such
messages could be transmitted to Chief of Station when required.)